

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-08 EB-11 AGR-20 SCI-06 AID-20

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 DODE-00 PM-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1497

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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DEPT PASS DEPT OF INTERIOR

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: TECH, BEXP, TC, US

SUBJ: SHAIKH ZAYID REQUEST US EXPERTS STUDY DAM CONSTRUCTION IN  
UAE

REF: KUWAIT 1423

1. IN COURSE OF RECENT CALL BY CHARGE AND DR. CARL  
HODGES, DIRECTOR OF UNIV OF ARIZONA ARID LANDS RESEARCH  
CENTER, ON UAE PRESIDENT SHAIKH ZAYID TO EXPLORE POS-  
SIBILITY OF BROADENING SCOPE OF UNIV'S AGRICULTURAL  
ASSISTANCE TO UAE, ZAYID REFERRED TO THE ACUTE PROBLEM  
OF RAINWATER RUN-OFF FROM THE OMAN MOUNTAIN CHAIN  
EXTENDING FROM THE AL-AIN OASIS TO THE SEA AT RAS AL-  
KHAIMAH (RAK). SHAIKH ZAYID SAID THAT HE, AS WELL AS  
OTHERS EQUALLY FAMILIAR WITH THIS AREA, HAVE IMPRES-  
SION THAT THOUSANDS OF GALLONS OF SWEET WATER ARE  
WASTED ANNUALLY DUE TO LACK OF ANY MODERN WAY TO TRAP  
THE WATER DURING SPORADIC PERIOD OF WINTER RAINFALL.

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SUCH WATER WOULD BE VALUABLE SUPPLEMENT, ZAYID

STRESSED, TO THE FERTILE BUT ARID AGRICULTURAL VALLEY WHICH STRETCHES FROM TOWN OF RAK TO AL-AIN ALONG THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAINS. ZAYID OUTLINED FOR CHARGE AND HODGES HIS IDEA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SEVERAL SMALL COFFER DAMS SIMILAR TO THOSE LOCATED ON WESTERN SIDE OF JORDAN RIVER VALLEY TO HARNESS AND COLLECT RAINWATER.

2. UAE PRES MADE SPECIFIC REQUEST OF CHARGE TO INVESTIGATE WHETHER USG WOULD CONSIDER SENDING ONE OR MORE EXPERTS KNOWLEDGEABLE IN WATER CONSERVATION AND SPECIFICALLY IN DAM ENGINEERING TO STUDY FEASIBILITY OF HARNESSING WATER RUN-OFF FROM OMANI MOUNTAINS. IN HIS REPLY, CHARGE WELCOMES UAE REQUEST NOTING EXTENSIVE USG EXPERIENCE IN SUCH FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS IN US AS FAMOUS TVA SCHEMES IN WESTERN STATES. ZAYID COMMENTED THAT HE SEEKING USG HELP BECAUSE HE WELL AWARE OF US PREEMINENT REPUTATION IN THIS FIELD. CHARGE INFORMED ZAYID THAT EMBASSY WOULD RELAY HIS REQUEST TO INTERESTED WASH AGENCIES IMMEDIATELY AND WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT DEFINITE PROPOSAL BE DRAWN UP SOONEST FOR HIS CONSIDERATION. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ZAYID'S REQUEST FOR US EXPERTS WAS RECONFIRMED DURING SUBSEQUENT CALL ON HIM BY AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS (SEE REFTEL). IMPLICIT IN ZAYID'S REMARKS TO CHARGE WAS UNDERTAKING BY UAEG TO REIMBURSE USG FOR ANY EXPENSES AND SERVICES CONNECTED WITH DETAIL OF EXPERTS TO STUDY WATER PROBLEMS.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTS VIEWS OF DEPT OF INTERIOR AND AID SOONEST RE FEASIBILITY OF DRAWING UP PROPOSAL ALONG LINE SUGGESTED BY ZAYID. WE HAVE HAD IN MIND, FOR EXAMPLE, SHORT TERM DETAIL OF EXPERTS EITHER FROM AID OR INTERIOR'S BUREAU OF RECLAMATION. LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR ANY PRELIMINARY SURVEY PRESUMABLY WILL BE PROVIDED BY UAEG, BUT THIS IS VITAL DETAIL WE WOULD WISH NAIL DOWN BEFORE MAKING ANY DEFINITE COMMITMENT. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ESTIMATED COST OF INITIAL OR LONGER TERM SURVEY FOR PASSING TO UAEG. WE ANTICIPATE THAT PRELIMINARY STUDY SHOULD PROBABLY NOT EXCEED 10-14 DAYS, ALTHOUGH MORE DETAILED SURVEY MIGHT TAKE LONGER.

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4. BELIEVE THIS REQUEST BY ZAYID REPRESENTS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RECENTLY RECEIVED BY EMB IN FIELDS OF CUSTOMS, POLICE TRAINING AND HEALTH STUDY, TO MAKE TANGIBLE BEGINNING ON PROGRAM OF REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN UAE THAT WE HAVE BEEN PROMOTING INFORMALLY OVER PAST TWO YEARS. IN OUR VIEW, FACT THAT THIS PARTICULAR REQUEST CAME FROM PRESIDENT HIMSELF AND INVOLVES DEVELOPMENT FIELD IN

WHICH ZJID HAS MOST CONSUMING INTEREST, I.E. AGRICULTURE AND UTILIZATION OF COUNTRY'S INADEQUATE WATER RESOURCES, IS HIGHLY RELEVANT AND SHOULD RECEIVE POSITIVE USG RESPONSE.

THEREFORE, WOULD APPRECIATE WASH AGENCIES GIVING THIS REQUEST MOST PROMPT ATTENTION. IN CONSIDERING PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, IT WORTH NOTING POINT ZAYID STRESSED TO AMB STOLTZFUS WHEN DISCUSSING SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE USG ASSISTANCE, NAMELY THAT WHAT HE WANTED WAS ADVICE OF QUALIFIED EXPERTS WHO WOULD COME TO UAE AND CONDUCT THEIR OWN DETAILED ON-SITE INVESTIGATIONS RATHER THAN RELYING, AS MANY SO-CALLED CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS HAVE DONE IN PAST, ON WORK OF OTHERS OR STRICTLY SECOND-HAND DATA.  
GRIFFIN

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